PETROLEUM ENGINEERING

The petroleum engineering program offers courses of study leading to the masters of science, doctor of philosophy, or doctor of engineering degrees. The master’s degree can be earned with either a thesis option or a non-thesis option.

While the program encourages students with an undergraduate degree in petroleum engineering to pursue graduate study, many graduate students are accepted with backgrounds in other areas of engineering, such as chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, or geological engineering. The program accepts such students with the expectation that any remedial petroleum engineering coursework will be met by the student while in residence for the master’s degree. Students with backgrounds in geology or geophysics will also need to complete all fundamental engineering courses required for a degree in engineering.

Graduate students studying for a masters degree with a thesis option typically find support for their study depending on current research projects and the availability of funding. Students preferring the non-thesis option are typically self-funding for their masters degree.

Each student’s graduate degree program is designed around a set of core petroleum engineering courses and other courses selected to support the thesis topic of interest. Students identify their thesis topic by the end of their first semester.

Research specialties of the petroleum engineering program include reservoir enhancement, hydraulic fracturing, CO2 sequestration, gel treatments, drilling, well completion performance studies, and geomechanics of petroleum recovery.

The program emphasizes mechanical earth modeling (MEM) as a specialty. The MEM group owns part of the university numerical intensive computing cluster. Students with a strong background in geological engineering and geomechanics will likely find excellent opportunities for advanced studies.

The petroleum engineering laboratories contain modern equipment designed to study the many problems encountered in oil and gas production, as well as support research. The department laboratories include gas porosimeter and permeameter, liquid permeameter, viscometers, tensiometers, and a HPTP core flooding cell. The program also utilizes departmental facilities that include core cutting and preparation, laser ablation, XRD, SEM, and a triaxial and fracture cell and a direct shear apparatus for determining rock and fracture properties.

Students externally supported by international oil and gas operating companies may also suggest research topics related to their professional experience or special topics of interest to their companies.

For additional information regarding graduate study opportunity contact rocks@mst.edu. Additional information may also be found at the web pages at: http://gse.mst.edu/ or http://petroleum.mst.edu/.

Baojun Bai, Associate Professor
PHD New Mexico Institute of Mining
Lester Birbeck Chair. Conformance control, enhanced oil recovery (EOR), numerical modeling and reservoir simulation, multiple-phase fluid flow in porous media, unconventional oil and gas development, and carbon sequestration.

Shari Dunn Norman, Associate Professor
PHD Heriot-Watt University
Well completions, including completion reliability and benchmarking, well stimulation, well productivity, production engineering and offshore operations.

Andreas Eckert, Assistant Professor
PHD University of Karlsruhe
Mechanical earth modeling, finite element methods in petroleum engineering, petroleum geomechanics and geophysics.

Ralph E Flori Jr, Associate Professor
PHD University of Missouri-Rolla
Engineering mechanics, mechanical earth modeling, reservoir engineering, reservoir simulation, engineering education.

Peyman Heidari, Assistant Professor
PHD The Pennsylvania State University
Reservoir engineering, geochemistry and understanding of reactive transport processes.

Mingzhen Wei, Assistant Professor
PHD New Mexico Tech
Reservoir simulation, reservoir engineering, data modeling, data management, and advanced application development using artificial intelligence computation in the Petroleum Engineering.

PET ENG 5000 Special Problems (IND 0.0-6.0)
Problems or readings on specific subjects of projects in the department. Consent of instructor required.

PET ENG 5001 Special Topics (LEC 0.0-6.0)
This course is designed to give the department an opportunity to test a new course. Variable title.

PET ENG 5010 Seminar (RSD 0.0-6.0)
Discussion of current topics.

PET ENG 5040 Oral Examination (IND 0.0)
After completion of all other program requirements, oral examinations for on-campus M.S./Ph.D. students may be processed during intersession. Off-campus M.S. students must be enrolled in oral examination and must have paid an oral examination fee at the time of the defense/comprehensive examination (oral/ written). All other students must enroll for credit commensurate with uses made of facilities and/or faculties. In no case shall this be for less than three (3) semester hours for resident students.

PET ENG 5085 Internship (IND 0.0-15)
Students working toward a doctor of engineering degree will select, with the advice of their committees, appropriate problems for preparation of a dissertation. The problem selected and internship plan must conform to the purpose of providing a high level engineering experience consistent with the intent of the doctor of engineering degree.

PET ENG 5099 Research (IND 0.0-12)
Investigations of an advanced nature leading to the preparation of a thesis or dissertation. Consent of instructor required.

PET ENG 6000 Special Problems (IND 0.0-6.0)
Problems or readings on specific subjects of projects in the department. Consent of instructor required.
This course is designed to give the department an opportunity to test a new course. Variable title.

Discussion of current topics.

After completion of all other program requirements, oral examinations for on-campus M.S./Ph.D. students may be processed during intersession. Off-campus M.S. students must be enrolled in oral examination and must have paid an oral examination fee at the time of the defense/comprehensive examination (oral/written). All other students must enroll for credit commensurate with uses made of facilities and/or faculties. In no case shall this be for less than three (3) semester hours for resident students.

Doctoral candidates who have completed all requirements for the degree except the dissertation, and are away from the campus must continue to enroll for at least one hour of credit each registration period until the degree is completed. Failure to do so may invalidate the candidacy. Billing will be automatic as will registration upon payment.

Students working toward a doctor of engineering degree will select, with the advice of their committees, appropriate problems for preparation of a dissertation. The problem selected and internship plan must conform to the purpose of providing a high level engineering experience consistent with the intent of the doctor of engineering degree.

Investigations of an advanced nature leading to the preparation of a thesis or dissertation. Consent of instructor required.

Optimization of the drilling process based on geomechanical model of the subsurface. Topics include drilling hydraulics, drilling bits, selection of operational parameters and analysis of drilling time and cost. Prerequisite: Pet Eng 4210.

Overview of hardware, fluids and processes employed in completing oil and gas wells. Types of well completions and design considerations. Downhole mechanics, tubing movement and stress calculations. Advanced concepts in well completion design and review of well completions literature. Prerequisites: Pet Eng 3520. Students may not earn credit for both Pet Eng 4431 and Pet Eng 6431.

This course builds on the basic theory and fundamentals of hydraulic fracturing through the use of STIMPLAN software and hands on industry examples. The course teaches the methods used to plan, execute and evaluate hydraulic fracturing treatments. An advanced exercise and a research assignment are required. Students may not earn credit for both Pet Eng 4441 and Pet Eng 6441. Prerequisites: Pet Eng 3520 and Pet Eng 3310.

Pressure transient analysis equations, well test analysis for fractured wells, horizontal wells, injection wells, and other special situations. Introduction to rate transient analysis. Prerequisites: Pet Eng 3520 and Pet Eng 4520.

Advanced study of producing mechanisms. Prerequisites: Pet Eng 5631 and Pet Eng 4520.